

In re: Maurer et al.
Serial No.: 10/782,459
Filed: February 19, 2004
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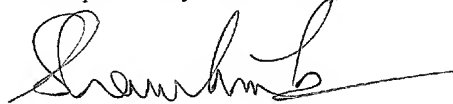
REMARKS

Applicants hereby request further consideration of the present application in view of the amendments above and the comments that follow. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments herein place the application in condition for allowance.

The final Office Action dated May 13, 2008 (hereinafter, "the Final Action") indicates that (a) Claims 20-37 are allowable, (b) Claims 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-19 stand objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are allowable if re-written in independent form, and (c) Claims 1-7, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *See* Final Action, page 2. In an effort to advance allowance of the present application, Applicants have amended Claims 8, 9, 11 and 13 in a manner consistent with the Examiner's suggestions, and Applicants have canceled Claims 1-7, 10 and 12, without prejudice.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the issues presented in the Office Action have been addressed or obviated, and Applicants further submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

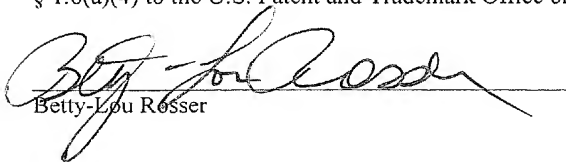


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 13, 2008 .



Betty-Lou Rosser